

*Tips for Sharing your*

# AmeriCorps VISTA Service Story



As an AmeriCorps VISTA alum, you know the transformative power of a year of service. Sharing your service story is a great way to relive your experiences as an AmeriCorps VISTA member and help recruit the next generation of future volunteers. There are many different ways you can share your story, and you can start by using the AmeriCorps VISTA Alumni PowerPoint Template as a guide. Not sure where to start? Try giving a presentation to one of the groups listed below:

- College or high school classrooms
- Workplaces (Career Days, Service Panels)
- Retirement communities
- After-school programs or youth groups such as Girl Scout troops
- Local libraries
- Service organizations such as Rotary Clubs

When giving a presentation, remember to relax and have fun! Refer to the Do and Don'ts list below to help perfect your presenting skills:

**DO** share your motivation for serving and feel free to speak about personal experiences or anecdotes. Help attendees connect to your story and envision themselves as AmeriCorps VISTA members.

**DO** have fun with the presentation, make it conversational, engaging, and concise. Use humor and gestures appropriately.

**DO** anticipate and prepare for questions from the audience. Present facts and opinions about your service year that encourage discussion.

**DO** choose photos and/or memorabilia from your AmeriCorps VISTA service that will enhance your presentation.

**DO** communicate that points of view expressed in your presentation are your own and do not necessarily reflect the official position of, or a position that is endorsed by, the Corporation for National and Community Service, or AmeriCorps VISTA.

**DON'T** use AmeriCorps acronyms or jargon like PSO, IST, CSO, and VMSU. While useful inside the AmeriCorps VISTA family, it will confuse an unfamiliar audience.

**DON'T** have your back turned to the audience, familiarize yourself with each slide and remember that you are the expert of your service year.

**DON'T** forget to pause from time to time. Give attendees a moment to process the information.

**DON'T** forget to distribute the promotional items to avoid post-presentation information fizzle.

